

Woking: a safe place to live, thanks to you

The County of Surrey is considered to be a safe place with relatively low crime, while the Borough of Woking has falling crime statistics. Drug crime is down and so are burglaries – even accounting for COVID, which means more of us are at home.

The fall in drug crime is the result of a combination of police work, the public reporting crime and providing police intelligence, and considerable education within schools by police and organisations such as Fearless.

Crime along the Basingstoke Canal is also down, without a reported case since July. This is partly the result of Canal Watch. Working with the canal authorities and charity, the police and the canal lengthsmen carry out regular patrols and report the need for any maintenance or improvements. Graffiti along the canal has been mapped and will be addressed in a way that should reduce or even eliminate it.

Car catalytic converter thefts are also falling – again thanks to some deft police work and the reporting of suspicious activity by the public.

Through reporting crime to the police, we are all playing a part in this excellent work. The Neighbourhood Watch war-cry is “report, report, report”. If you don’t report something, you cannot expect the police to react. The more people who report an incident, or a suspicion, the higher the priority the police will give it.

Drug dealing is not to be tolerated, and the police agree. Report it. Anti-social behaviour is not to be tolerated, and the police agree. Report that too. Do you see someone jacking up a car in the road? Report it immediately. This is the way we have together made Woking a risky place for these catalytic converter thieves to operate.

With dark evenings drawing in, we need to help continue this excellent downward trend in crime. Go outside and look at the front of your house in the dark. Does it look occupied? Is it completely unlit? If so, a burglar may consider it empty. Have you locked and secured the back gate? Fixed any broken fencing? Is your shed properly locked?

If you have bikes in the shed, lock them up. Outdoor CCTV cameras are relatively cheap and can now be connected to your phone. Try fitting a burglar alarm with a little flashing light to make it more noticeable. All these things, and other common sense actions, will make your house less attractive to burglars.

And if you see anything suspicious: report, report, report. Ring 999 if a situation is heated, violent, or if anyone is in imminent danger. For everything else use 101. You can reach this service via phone, social media and www.surrey.police.uk (includes a Live Chat facility).

Let’s keep winning the battle against crime together.

Useful Links

- www.surrey.police.uk
- www.facebook.com/WokingPolice/
- www.fearless.org